

# MUSIC AND LITURGY NEWSLETTER EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

Volume II #1  
Lent to Easter, 2005

## *Editors Column*

It hardly seems possible that this is the fourth issue of our newsletter! It began with an idea that both the Liturgy and Music Commissions could provide all parishes with a newsletter that is both interesting and informative. We hope we have done that and will continue to do so in future issues.

We are pleased that Bishop Cuncell has written a wonderful article for us in this issue. The issue also contains suggestions for anthems for Lent and Easter; and tried and true books for the clergy and church musician.

Articles are always welcome and encouraged from all our parish church clergy and musicians. Perhaps it would only be a suggested anthem, book, style of worship, etc. These are always welcome and can be emailed to [bfmiller@earthlink.net](mailto:bfmiller@earthlink.net) or sent to Brent F. Miller, 13 Cambridge Drive, Annandale, NJ 08801.

Also, suggestions for improving our newsletter and helpful criticisms are always welcome.

Thank you for your continued support of this newsletter and we look forward to many more issue in the future.

Brent F. Miller, Editor

## *St. Dunstan's Guild*

We have received many requests for membership in the St. Dunstan's Guild. The following information will help you in selecting parish musicians for this honor.

The St. Dunstan's Guild is open to all adult choristers who have served a parish choir in the diocese.

1. Letter of recommendation from the parish musician and the rector.
2. Ten years or more of continuous singing in a Diocesan parish choir (doesn't have to be the same choir).

Upon receiving the letter of recommendation from both the parish musician and the rector of the parish, a patch and a certificate of membership will be sent to the choir member. The patch may be worn on the sleeve of the surplice or robe.

Please send all letters of recommendation to:

Brent Miller  
Co-Chair, Music Commission  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
158 West High Street  
Somerville, NJ, 08876

## *Worship for a Holy Lent*

Being raised in Southern California, I had little appreciation for nature's seasons. Oh, sure, we had hot days in the summer, winds in the fall and rains in the winter. (Although this year has seen record rains and floods in that region.) But mostly it was sun, sun, sun.

Our family has since lived in New England, the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic, where we have experienced the rhythms of all four seasons and the rituals and activities by means of which we prepare for, celebrate and survive them. Each season (even the long gray days of February) witnesses to the beauty and wonder of God's creation.

The Church's calendar also includes contrasting seasons and our liturgical and musical traditions offer us ritual ways of celebrating those seasons. Each season of the Church year accents a different feature of the life and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each season proclaims the Gospel through its own lections from the Scriptures, along with its own prayers and songs, themes, colors, tones and textures. Taken together, the seasons of the Church year tell the story of Jesus and the story of our salvation.

Lent is a solemn season of repentance and renewal. The Invitation to a Holy Lent includes a number of precise directions on how to "do" Lent. We observe a Holy Lent "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (*The Book of Common Prayer*, page 265).

Lent, however, is not only a season for adopting a personal discipline. Lent is also observed in our corporate worship. Congre-

gations are centers of spiritual practice that draw us into the mystery of Christ in community. What adjustments are to be made, then, in order for your congregation to observe Lent in your corporate worship?

I commend to you the following practices and customs for Lent.

Consider chanting the Great Litany in procession on the First Sunday in Lent. An alternative to the traditional version in the BCP may be found in *Enriching our Worship I* (pp. 46 ff.). On other Sundays in Lent, you may want the clergy, choirs and those assisting in the Liturgy to make their entrance in silence or by chanting an Introit Psalm.

On most Sundays and at weekday liturgies, use the Penitential Order at the beginning of the Celebration of the Eucharist. Following the Absolution, continue with the *Kyrie eleison* or the *Trisagion*.

Lent offers us an excellent opportunity to learn alternate settings for the Service music. There are a number of settings in *The Hymnal 1982*, in *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, in *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, and in *El Himnario*. Explore them and help your congregation to expand its repertoire of praise and thanksgiving.

Practice restraint in liturgy and music as well as in personal discipline. We omit "alleluia" from our worship lexicon during this solemn season. It might be good to prompt the congregation early in the season in order to help people prepare for these changes. It's easier to teach people if they have not already embarrassed themselves with an errant but quite obvious "alleluia" while the congregation is silent.

Perhaps you would like to observe silence between readings during Lent. If your custom is to chant the Psalm between the Reading from the Old Testament and the New Testament Epistle, consider saying the Psalm during Lent. Again, instructing the people in advance will help these practices to be received.

During Lent, I commend the use of a solemn Prayer over the People in place of the Blessing (see pp. 24-25 of *The Book of Occasional Services*, 2003).

In most churches, a Lenten array or a set of purple or violet vestments and hangings are used as part of this season. Some choirs forego cottas or surplices and wear only cassocks during Lent. This is another way of marking the solemnity of the season.

I invite your churches to relax most of these practices during the Fourth Sunday in Lent, known as mid-Lent, Refreshment, or (following the English custom) Mothering Sunday. Rose vestments may be used on this Sunday and altar flowers may re-appear as we pause in our Lenten pilgrimage before we turn our attention to Holy Week.

None of these practices is an end in itself. They are valuable elements of our Tradition, however, and have enriched the observance of Lent for ages and ages. As is often said about private Confession, so may be said of these customs: "All may. Some should. None must." Whatever is done, or left undone, I hope and pray that we may all hear and respond to our Church's invitation to repent of our sins, to seek the renewal of our faith, and to prepare ourselves for Easter, our greatest joy and the crown of the Church Year.

May your observance of a Holy Lent in your parish worship be to the praise and glory of our God and to the benefit of all God's people.

The Rt. Rev. George E. Councill  
XI Bishop of New Jersey

### ***Books, Books, Books***

*The Sacred Dramas of J.S. Bach* –  
W. Murray Young, McFarland & Company,  
Inc., Jefferson, North Carolina

*Lord, Open our Lips* – (Musical Help for  
Leaders of the Liturgy) Church Publishing,  
Inc, New York, New York.

*Singing & Imagination* – Thomas Hemsley,  
Oxford University Press, New York, New  
York.

*Sing A New Song*. The Psalms in the Sunday  
Lectionary. Irene Nowell, The Liturgical  
Press, Collegeville, MI.

*An Introduction to Repertoire and Registra-  
tion for the Small Organ*. Marilyn Kay  
Stulken, AGO Publications.

*52 Instant Hymn Anthems*. David L. Bone,  
Abington Press, Nashville, Tenn.

*Meditations on the Psalms for Every Day of  
the Year*. Barbara Crafton, Morehouse Pub-  
lishing, New York, New York

*Reaching Out without Dumbing Down*.  
Marva J. Dawn, Wm. B. Eerdmans Co.,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*Keeping the Church Year*. H. Boone Porter,  
The Seabury Press, New York, New York.

*Choral Ensemble Intonation.* Jordan & Mehaffey, GIA, Chicago, IL.

*Building the Youth Choir.* John Yarrington, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

*The Musician's Soul.* James Jordan, GIA, Chicago, IL.

### ***Anthems for Lent***

*Wash Me Thoroughly* – Wesley, SATB(S), Organ, Novello Anth 186

*Wondrous Love* – Shaw/Parker, SATB, Schirmer 907

*Wondrous Love* – Thiman, SATB, Organ, Broadman 4561-30

*Vere Languores Nostros* – Lotti, SSA, EC Schirmer 1509

*The Penitent's Vision* – KL Scott, SATB, Organ, Concordia 98-2945

*Pie Jesu* – Archer, SATB, Organ, Mayhew MB97684A

*Parce Domine* – Obrecht, SAB, GIA G 1900.

*O Saving Victim* – Kihlken, SATB, Carl Fisher, CM7678

*Lord God Most Holy* – Franck, 2-Part, Organ, Northwest.

*Jesu, Grant Me This I Pray* – Kitson, SATB, Organ, Oxford.

### ***Anthems for Easter***

*The Strife Is O'er* – Ferguson, SATB, Organ, Handbells, Augsburg 0-8006-7640

*Up Thought Endless Ranks* – Pelz, SATB, Organ, Concordia 98-2324

*Prepare the Song* – Fedak, SATB, Brass, Organ, Morningstar MSM50-4014

*Sing Men and Angels Sing* – Butler, SATB, Organ, AMSI 104.

*Joy to the Heart* – Scott, SATB, Organ, Brass, Concordia 98-2972

*Easter Bell Carol* – Davies, SA, Organ, Flammer 86124

*Look Ye Saints!* –Williams, SATB, Organ, AMSI 170

### ***CHALLENGE***

Create a service for Lent which is modeled after Lessons and Carols. Select readings, hymns and anthems which are appropriate for the season.

Share those ideas with us and with other parishes.

Be creative in your worship.